



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Industry**



## Hindu Temple

**A community meeting place that is making energy efficient changes and influencing their community.**

### Sri Venkateswara Temple (SVT), Helensburgh



### Background

The Sri Venkateswara Temple at Helensburgh is one of the famous Hindu temples in the southern hemisphere. The construction of Sri Venkateswara Temple started in 1978 when a small group of people had a vision to build a Hindu temple according to Vedic principles .

Both Shiva and Balaji temples regularly hold significant community events. The temple has amenities, medical rooms and a canteen and catering service. Shortly there will be further building works with an education hall, a 600 seat auditorium with multimedia facilities, a library, a meditation hall and spiritual retreat. The kitchens will also be renovated.

Each year the number of people that go to SVT increases. The Temple Committee realised the electricity bill was rising rapidly because of the increased hours of opening and the operation of the canteen, especially during winter. The Committee sought information from their service provider and also had an energy assessment from BEST.

## Measures Implemented

External lighting is a key feature of SVT and has used a lot of electricity previously. The Temple Committee have recently replaced halogen flood lights and Mercury lights to LED flood lights and now external lighting is only around 4% of the annual electricity usage.



Further changes were made to internal lighting and 40 Watt T8 fluorescent lights were replaced with 20 Watt LED lights in the main rooms of the temple.

Together, the refrigeration and kitchen equipment use 62% of electricity at SVT. The Temple Committee are considering building an energy efficient cool room and freezer room and a kitchen with energy efficient equipment. Meanwhile, many no cost tips provided to the Temple Committee are being implemented. This includes turning equipment off at the power point when not in use, using cold water for washing machines and installing 24 hour timers on drinks fridges with non-perishable items.



Heating large spaces is always a challenge and the Temple is considering various options for heating the prayer hall during winter, as it is now around 7% of the Temple's electricity use. The BEST energy assessment report recommended using the reverse cycle air conditioner for heating rather than smaller heaters.

## Outcomes

The savings made by these changes has encouraged the Temple Committee to continue to implement energy efficient actions. They are now considering how the new buildings can be completely energy efficient, including installing solar power.

The staff are now trained on the energy saving measures and the low cost solutions provided by BEST are being implemented.

Thousands of people visit SVT every week and they are noticing the energy efficiency measures. SVT is making a difference in the community and is proud to be a role model to them and other temples.

*This Activity received funding from the Department of Industry as part of the Energy Efficiency Information Grants Program and the views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of the Commonwealth of Australia, and the Commonwealth does not accept responsibility for any information or advice contained herein.*